

What is claimed is:

1. A mechanism for discharging a container having a lid for opening and closing an opening through which a sheet-like member is inserted, from a containing loading unit of a sheet-like member processing apparatus, comprising:

a lid closing roller for engaging the lid to close the lid and automatically delivering said container to a predetermined position upon rotation thereof;

a rotary actuator for rotating said lid closing roller; and

clutch means for transmitting rotational power from said rotary actuator to said lid closing roller and disconnecting said lid closing roller from said rotary actuator;

whereby when said lid closing roller is rotated by said rotary actuator, said lid closing roller automatically delivers said container from said container loading unit to said predetermined position, and closes said lid.

2. A mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said lid closing roller has a plurality of rollers axially spaced at predetermined intervals, said rollers having different hardnesses.

3. A mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said lid closing roller has a shaft made of an electrically

conductive material, said rollers comprising a plurality of rubber rings mounted on said shaft.

5 4. A mechanism according to claim 2, wherein said rollers have the same diameter, and include:

a reference roller disposed along a reference position with which each end of differently dimensioned containers is aligned;

10 first rollers disposed for coaction with cassettes of small dimensions; and

a second roller disposed for coaction with containers of large dimensions;

15 said reference roller and said second roller having a hardness greater than said first rollers.

5. A mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said clutch means comprises an electromagnetic clutch.

20 6. A mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising:

electrostatic charge removing means for removing electrostatic charges from said container that is in contact with said lid closing roller.

25 7. A mechanism according to claim 6, wherein said electrostatic charge removing means comprises:

a charge removal brush held in contact with rubber

rings of said lid closing roller.

8. A mechanism according to claim 6, wherein said electrostatic charge removing means comprises:

5 an electrically conductive grounded member held in contact with said lid closing roller which is made of an electrically conductive material.

10 9. A mechanism according to claim 7, wherein said electrostatic charge removing means comprises:

an electrically conductive grounded member held in contact with an electrically conductive shaft of said lid closing roller.

15 10. A mechanism according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 a sheet-like member feed mechanism for removing said sheet-like member from said container and/or introducing said sheet-like member into said container, said sheet-like member feed mechanism having a motor:

said motor doubling as said rotary actuator.